

Better recycling of e-waste



Cobalt, silicon, tantalum, indium... a smartphone contains 16 raw materials out of 27 listed as 'critical' by the European Commission. A strong demand, and production limited and/or controlled by a small group of countries, generate risks of scarcity. According to Kantar Worldpanel, in Western Europe, we change our phones every 20.4 months on average and the recycling rate remains low. This is why Europe is working to improve the collection of **waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)**. In doing so, it enforces the Basel Convention (1989), which prohibits the export of hazardous waste to less wealthy countries. Thanks to the SCRREEN project, Europe is also developing recycling and reprocessing solutions for this waste. This circular economy approach is facilitated by better eco-design of products. The challenge is to make smartphone components more easily repairable, dismantled and recyclable.

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The superpowers of the new critical raw materials is a communication campaign organised by SCRREEN, a European project which has received funding from the Horizon 2020 under Grant Agreement n°730227.

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